

ITALIANS TAKE TWO TOWNS IN SOUTH TYROL

Ala Captured in Stiff Fight, and Storo, West of Lake Garda, Also Falls.

INVASERS PRESS ON IN MARCH AGAINST TRIESTE

Rome, May 29.—Riva, the important Austrian town at the head of Lake Garda, is under bombardment by Italian batteries placed on the heights west of the place. This is the result of the capture by the Italians of the village of Storo on Lake Idro, which fell into the invaders' hands after a stiff fight.

It was officially announced today that the Italians have occupied Ala, on the railway running up the Adige Valley. Ala is about four miles from the Italian frontier and fifty-nine from Trent.

The War Office issued the following statement to-day: "On the Trentino frontier Italian artillery at Tonale Pass (on the western border) and Asiago village (on the southeastern side) continued the bombardment of the Austrian forts, which still reply vigorously. The Austrian forts at Luserna, Susa and Spiziersee have been seriously damaged by our fire.

On the eastern side of Lake Garda the Italian infantry and artillery advanced along both sides of the Adige and occupied Ala. The engagement lasted from noon until evening. The Italian losses were slight.

On the eastern side of Lake Garda the Italians who gained possession Thursday of Monte Gallesimo, a peak of the Monte Baldo range overlooking the Adige Valley, are shelling Serravalle, between Ala and Rovereto. The Italians have placed mountain guns along the entire range of high hills and are bombarding all the Austrian positions in the valley.

The invading army which crossed the Trentino frontier at Lake Caffaro is endeavoring to make its way along the northern shore of Lake Garda to fall on Riva and Mori.

Reports from the eastern frontier tell of serious fighting at Trieste, which is said to have been abandoned by the Austrian officials. The civil government is in the hands of a committee, which is unable to restrain the anti-Italian mob, and Italian property has suffered greatly. The police are making little or no effort to quell the disturbances.

An official report says that Italians have entered Gradisca and are threatening Gorizia. The last finite reports from that region describe the Italians as before Gradisca, apparently waiting for a general advance of the entire line over the forty-mile front where it is established on Austrian territory. Tonale Peak, near Monfalcone, has been captured and the town itself, an important railway center, is expected to fall into the hands of the invaders without delay.

Investigation of various spy stories has revealed an elaborate espionage system organized in Italy by Austrians and German agents in the guise of tourists. It is stated that it was owing to these arrangements that an Austrian warship which bombarded Serravalle sixteen miles from Ancona, was able to fire with such accuracy as to demolish a revolving railroad bridge. A troop train was passing over the bridge at the time and several soldiers were killed.

Gen. Asinari, Mayor of Ancona, had General Austrians, captured and released after the bombardment of the city, tried by court-martial and shot.

The negotiations between Italy and Russia for the exchange of prisoners of war and Italian nationalities, respectively, have been resumed. Russia made the proposal several months ago, but Italy declined on the ground that the offer was not in her ally. Now that the alliance has been ended it is believed that the negotiations will lead to a satisfactory arrangement.

French sailors rescued from the Leon Gambetta who were interned at Messina after the sinking of the cruiser by an Austrian submarine on April 25, have been permitted to return to France.

VENICE BOMBARDED

Austrian Aviators Cause Explosion in Port San Nicolò.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun. VIENNA, via London, May 29.—Premier Salandra has written to thank and praise the numerous Senators and Deputies who have offered to enlist in the army or navy. He says he has received the applications with gratitude, but cannot avail themselves of the proffered services because Italy does not need soldiers, having in fact more than enough for both the present and future.

The Premier suggests that the Senators and Deputies who are anxious to join in assuming the organization of the committees to give assistance to the families of soldiers. He would have them preside over special committees formed throughout Italy with the view of ascertaining the needs of the people and of raising funds. The Government, adds the Premier, will gladly cooperate in any work of this kind.

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ADMITS LOSS OF ALA.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun. VIENNA, via Amsterdam, May 29.—The following official statement regarding the operations in the Italian theatre of war was given out here today: "The Italian troops have reached the frontier villages of Ala and Priobor.

In the coastal lands minor battles have occurred. At Karrefel (Capobersato) an Italian battalion was dispersed. North of Goetz (Gorizia) the attacks by the enemy were repulsed.

Archduke Eugene in Command. BERLIN, via Copenhagen, May 29.—It is stated here that Archduke Eugene of Austria has been appointed commander in chief of the Austrian forces resisting the Italian invasion. He was Chief of Staff in the operations against Serbia.

AUSTRIA ALWAYS FOE OF ITALY, SAYS DE SANTO

University of Pennsylvania Professor Declares Triple Alliance Brought No Aid to Latin Nation—Cites Many Manifestations of Enmity.

By PROF. VINCENZO DE SANTO, University of Pennsylvania.

May 4, 1915, the denunciation of the Triple Alliance on the part of Italy, marks one of the most brilliant pages in the annals of the Italian people. The knowledge of this denunciation caused a great sigh of relief in the breast of every Italian. It was as if an oppressive and despised weight had been taken off our back; it was our first great victory against the Teutons in this world's struggle.

Italy has been accused of perfidy; she has been called faithless and mercenary; she has also been put ahead of England in the list of the most hated nations of the earth in Germany. All of this and more we expected from the Teutons, and therefore are not at all impressed by it. We are very much concerned, however, to find that there are still a few Americans who are bent upon blaming Italy for her entrance in the war against her former ally. The attitude of the latter is the result of a misunderstanding, and it is largely due to the fact that this small percentage of the American people have not had the time or opportunity to study over the reasons that have prompted Italy to take the step she has taken.

We esteem so much and are so much in need of the friendship and moral support of America that we cannot afford to leave one American uninformed of the truth in this great question. Let us, therefore, cast a rapid glance upon the past and study the relation between Italy and the Teutonic nations for the last half a century.

By way of introduction, let me say that the Latins and the Teutons were never since the time of Caesar on very friendly terms. They were always enemies, and each one of the states of peace formed by circumstances. As for a perfect, mutual understanding, productive of enduring harmony, we can find no trace of it between the two peoples. The soul of the Teutons is so different from that of the Latins.

Results of 1870. Now let us go back for a moment to the year 1870. In that memorable year, with the taking of Rome, Italy emerged into life a new and united nation, full of glory and full of hope. The joy of the new freedom made the people forget for the time being the horrors of war they had just gone through; the atrocities inflicted upon them, especially by Austria; the many thousands of noble and valiant youths, and even women, who had fallen in the defense of the fatherland, and the fact that two provinces, Trent and Trieste, which had fought for freedom so heroically together with the other provinces, had in the end been left outside the fold of the mother land.

Results being forgetful of these woes the Third Italy had not yet had the time to realize the preceding conditions in which she was on the brink of bankruptcy. The percentage of illiteracy was appalling throughout the country, commerce was undeveloped and, what was worse, she was isolated as a nation, a policy extremely dangerous for her, especially because there was danger of being attacked by Austria and Germany together, with a view to restore to her its temporal power. In 1875 Bismarck had made the Pope Minister of Austria and to the Papal Nuncio, who had approached him on the subject, the significant remark that "Italy was not considered by Germany as one of her friends."

It did not take very long, however, for the Italian Government as well as the people to realize the danger of isolation. In seeking an alliance it was natural to look to France first, but Bismarck, who should be called the "Iron Hearted Chancellor" in the sense that he had no scruple whatever, was too wise to permit a Franco-Italian alliance which later would have been a hindrance to the development of Germany. Accordingly at the Congress of Berlin in 1875 he suggested to France to occupy Tunis, which he had previously assigned to Italy. The preparation by the French of this land a few years later caused such a disappointment in Italy that for a moment the whole nation was on the verge of despondency. A Franco-Italian alliance became impossible.

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YOUNG TROOPS OF FRANCE WIN GLORY IN WOEVRE FIGHT

Desperate Charge by 1915 Class Carries Day in Battle for Le Pretre Wood.

ALL ABLAIN VILLAGE TAKEN FROM GERMANS

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun. PARIS, May 29.—The War Office has known tonight that the last German positions in Le Pretre wood, northwest of Pont-a-Mousson, were captured at the point of the bayonet by soldiers of the class of 1915, who dashed forward with utter disregard of their lives in a magnificent charge.

The announcement is of especial interest because it reveals the fact that young men of 21 years are fighting at the front and fighting with great effect despite the limited time of their military training. It is the first mention of soldiers of this class in battle.

A review of the operations which resulted in the complete occupation of the woods, and in driving the soldiers of our allies, we let them go on.

And then, all of a sudden, came a big blow. The treaty of the Triple Alliance called every Italian to the aid of the status quo in the Balkans. In 1909, like a thunderbolt from a clear sky, we heard that Austria had annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina without having said a word about it to our Foreign Office. We asked Germany for an explanation, but the reply we got was that Germany had acquiesced to this act of robbery by Austria, as she was not a party to the treaty. One would attack her on account of it. This was not only a breaking of the treaty of the Triple Alliance but it imperilled Italy's position on the Adriatic beyond all words.

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It is useless to say that this alliance was of no great advantage to us. We had to build up an army and navy to defend ourselves from a possible attack from Austria, our own ally. We had to refrain from expanding our sphere of influence over the Italian States out of regard to Austria. We had also to be careful never to become too intimate with our brethren the French as we were inclined to, in spite of all the family troubles, because this would have displeased Germany, our ally. On the other hand, Germany and Austria, our allies, came over to Italy and established themselves in business centres, very soon becoming the bosses of our masses. The treaty of the Triple Alliance called every Italian to the aid of the status quo in the Balkans. In 1909, like a thunderbolt from a clear sky, we heard that Austria had annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina without having said a word about it to our Foreign Office. We asked Germany for an explanation, but the reply we got was that Germany had acquiesced to this act of robbery by Austria, as she was not a party to the treaty. One would attack her on account of it. This was not only a breaking of the treaty of the Triple Alliance but it imperilled Italy's position on the Adriatic beyond all words.

Humiliated by Austria. Two years later, 1911, Austria humiliated us again by refusing to take part in the Italian expedition. This was a most humiliating insult to our dignity. We had almost all our available troops in Tripoli and Cyrenaica when we heard that Austria was arming herself at our frontier and was getting ready to attack us in order to put an end to the question of freedom. It was only by a miracle of our diplomacy that a conflict was averted.

What has happened since July of last year has been indicated by the Italian note to Washington. The treaty of the Triple Alliance had been renewed again in 1911 and greater stress had been put on the preservation of the status quo in the Balkans. The attack upon Serbia on the part of Austria against the will and advice of Italy rendered the treaty void and left Italy free to act as she pleased. For that reason she adopted the policy of watchful waiting and declared herself neutral.

There was no talk among the Italians each day asking the question: "What outrage perpetrated upon Belgium. The utter disregard on the part of the Germans for all human and civil laws was appalling throughout the country, commerce was undeveloped and, what was worse, she was isolated as a nation, a policy extremely dangerous for her, especially because there was danger of being attacked by Austria and Germany together, with a view to restore to her its temporal power. In 1875 Bismarck had made the Pope Minister of Austria and to the Papal Nuncio, who had approached him on the subject, the significant remark that "Italy was not considered by Germany as one of her friends."

It did not take very long, however, for the Italian Government as well as the people to realize the danger of isolation. In seeking an alliance it was natural to look to France first, but Bismarck, who should be called the "Iron Hearted Chancellor" in the sense that he had no scruple whatever, was too wise to permit a Franco-Italian alliance which later would have been a hindrance to the development of Germany. Accordingly at the Congress of Berlin in 1875 he suggested to France to occupy Tunis, which he had previously assigned to Italy. The preparation by the French of this land a few years later caused such a disappointment in Italy that for a moment the whole nation was on the verge of despondency. A Franco-Italian alliance became impossible.

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